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Executive Registry
103-1593



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

25 FEB 1963

S-15533/P-2

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[Redacted]

Executive Secretary, United States
Intelligence Board
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

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Dear [Redacted]

In preparation for the next meeting of the PNIO Review Committee, I have first of all, as was suggested, set down what I believe to be the purpose of the PNIOs. It is to focus attention and generate action on critical intelligence problems whose resolution is necessary to the National Security Council in the formulation of policy and in the making of decisions affecting the security and foreign policies of the United States.

To accomplish this purpose, my concept of the PNIOs is that they should simply state the problems and indicate how critical they are; the intelligence collection requirements and the actions stemming therefrom being generated by the USIB members. Each member must determine the appropriate effort required by his Agency or Department in the light of its resources and capabilities as related to the intelligence deficiencies or gaps noted. The process is well set forth in paragraph 3 of the Memorandum For the Special Group (C.I.) of 12 February 1963. In addition, a combined review by the USIB to insure as complete coverage as possible, would serve to identify community wide gaps in the collection or production effort and would reduce undesirable duplication.

Likewise, frequent reviews of DCID 1/3 by the USIB would improve the basic guidance for the coordination of intelligence research and collection. It would also cause the PNIOs to be reevaluated in the light of new developments and trends so that the intelligence product might be more responsive to NSC policy requirements.

Close contact with the NSC would seem to be essential in order to receive the guidance that would insure appropriate and timely support of the NSC. Such cooperation could extend all the way from the sort that occurred in the days of the Planning Board to the formal approval of the PNIOs by the NSC, a matter which I would like to see explored.

DIA review(s) completed.

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REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

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As we all know, the PNIOs were expanded rapidly over the years to the point where they had lost much of their original meaning, encouraging by their very inclusiveness, dependence upon them for the direct allocation of resources and the justification of budgets. Recently, some progress has been made to reduce the number of PNIOs in an attempt to restore to them their true priority status and at the same time to return resource allocation for collection and analysis to its proper place in subsidiary, detailed listings. I hope this recent trend continues.

Much of the misconception concerning the PNIOs and also the dissatisfaction over them stems, I believe, in large part from the present format, the definitions, and certain ambiguities of the directive. Some aspects of the first two of these confuse me, I confess, and the last leads me to hope that the next revision of DCID 1/3 can be written in simpler and more direct language.

With the above comments in mind, I have the following changes to suggest in DCID 1/3.

As to the general form and substance of the introductory paragraphs of the directive, I would, for the sake of simplicity and clarity, like to see paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 replaced by the substance contained in paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of the Memorandum For the Special Group (C.I.) of 12 February 1963. Certain changes in the text, I believe, would be appropriate. Add to old paragraph 1 the sentence, "The DCID is reviewed at frequent intervals, at least semi-annually, and is revised whenever a need to do so is indicated." In substitute paragraph 2, delete "and effort" in the next to the last line. In substitute paragraph 4, delete the bracketed next to last sentence. I would like to see just after the DCID title on page 1 and before the first paragraph the underlined statement, "A reading of the following introductory paragraphs is essential to an understanding of the PNIOs."

As I said earlier, I am confused by the definitions following each of the category headings which appear to delineate and direct the degree of effort necessary in each case. I would favor no definitions at all, because priorities 1, 2, 3, and 4 as such for the objectives speak for themselves. In any event, substitute paragraph 4 states simply what the categories stand for. If, however, it is decided that further explanation is required, I would suggest that after each numbered category the corresponding criterion in the Annex be adapted for descriptive use.

As far as the body of the PNIOs is concerned, I would like to see the size of the third and fourth categories reduced substantially.

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The Annex, I feel, is no longer required because of the new introductory paragraphs, provided the essence of paragraphs 3 (time of validity) and 4 (scope) of the Annex are brought forward as part of the introduction. I would favor abolishing it. Annexes have a way of being neglected by the reader in any event.

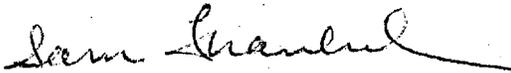
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In the last paragraph of [redacted] study on PNIOs that was given to us at the first meeting of the Committee, he refers to [redacted] views on the importance of the more systematic use of the findings of the USIB subcommittees in their respective fields as part of the PNIO problem. We should, I think, give some thought to this.

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The ideas expressed in this letter are, of course, subject to change even before our next meeting as a result of studying the contributions received from my fellow committee members.

Sincerely,



S. B. FRANKEL
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief of Staff

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